

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chairman Art Noonan, on March 13, 2009 at 3:01
P.M., in Room 172 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Art Noonan, Chairman (D)
Rep. Harry Klock, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Shannon Augare (D)
Rep. Carlie Boland (D)
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)
Rep. Jesse O'Hara (R)
Rep. Keith Regier (R)
Rep. Scott Reichner (R)
Rep. Wayne Stahl (R)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: Rep. Robyn Driscoll, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Llew Jones (R)
Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)
Rep. Mike Phillips (D)
Rep. Brady Wiseman (D)

Staff Present: Bryce Bennett, Committee Secretary
Todd Everts, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 257; SB 403; SB 424; SB 481

Executive Action: None

HEARING ON SB 257

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:45 Sen. Jim Keane (D), SD 38, opened the hearing on
SB 257, Revise definition of renewable energy resource.
00:05:19 Rep. Wiseman arrived.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:06:09 David Hoffman, PPL Montana

EXHIBIT(feh56a01)

00:11:29 Todd O'Hair, Reo Tinto Energy America

00:14:54 Steve Lozar, Councilman, Confederated Salish and
Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)

EXHIBIT(feh56a02)

00:21:09 Keith Allen, International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers (IBEW) - Local #233

00:21:36 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association

00:21:59 Dan Flynn, IBEW - Local #44

00:22:27 Cary Hegreberg, Montana Contractors Association

00:23:13 Ronda Wiggers, Great Falls Chamber of Commerce

00:24:12 Jon Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce

00:24:40 Don Allen, Western Montana Trade Association (WETA)

00:25:05 Dwight Rose, self

00:25:31 Haley Beaudry, Columbia Falls Aluminum

00:26:51 Brad Molnar, Commissioner, Public Service Commission

Opponents' Testimony:

00:30:55 John Vincent, Commissioner, Public Service Commission

EXHIBIT(feh56a03)

00:37:38 Chuck Magraw, Natural Resource & Defense Council/
Renewable Northwest Projects

00:43:28 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center
(MEIC)

00:48:38 Matt Leow, Northern Plains Resource Council

00:50:57 Sarah Cobler, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)

00:52:35 Zack Porter, self

00:52:45 Kassia Randzio, self

00:53:01 Bill Walker, self

00:53:12 Teresa Hastings, self

00:53:27 Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon

00:53:41 Jesse Davie, self

00:53:52 Brianna Randall, Clark Fork Coalition

00:54:14 Elsa Gruen, self

00:54:27 Jennifer Hill-Hart, self

Informational Testimony:

00:54:57 Paul Cartwright, Office of the Governor
EXHIBIT (feh56a04)
00:57:49 Rep. MacLaren arrived.
01:00:00 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:02:00 Rep. Reichner
01:02:42 Mr. Hoffman
01:06:01 Rep. Regier
01:06:23 Sen. Keane
01:07:21 Rep. Klock
01:07:34 Commissioner Vincent
01:07:57 Rep. Augare
01:09:01 Mr. Hoffman
01:10:42 Rep. Wiseman
01:11:03 Mr. Hoffman
01:12:13 Rep. Wiseman
01:12:30 Mr. Hoffman
01:13:08 Rep. Wiseman
01:13:51 Mr. Hoffman
01:15:13 Rep. Wiseman
01:15:29 Commissioner Vincent
01:17:12 Rep. Wiseman
01:17:51 Mr. Magraw
01:20:40 Chairman Noonan
01:21:01 Mr. Hoffman

Closing by Sponsor:

01:22:03 Sen. Keane

HEARING ON SB 424

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:26:02 Sen. Gregory Barkus (R), SD 4, opened the hearing on
SB 424, Control disposal of mercury thermostats.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:30:44 Jamie Silberberger, Women's Voices for the Earth
01:35:18 Samantha Omev, Honeywell Corporation
01:40:31 Don Judge, Montana Nurses Association

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01:42:14 Ms. Hedges
01:42:33 Ms. Randall
01:43:09 Stacey Anderson, Planned Parenthood of Montana
01:44:50 Doug Neil, Montana State Firemen's Association
01:45:59 Will Selser, Montana Recycling Association/ Recycle
Montana
01:46:57 Matt Elsaesser, Student Advocates for Valuing the
Environment (S.A.V.E.)
01:47:27 Linda Gryczan, Women's Voices for the Earth
EXHIBIT (feh56a05)
01:49:26 Jim Murphy, Department of Public Health

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

01:50:09 Mark Hall, Hazardous Waste Division, Department of
Environmental Quality

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:50:31 Rep. Regier
01:50:47 Ms. Omev
01:51:11 Rep. Regier
01:51:20 Ms. Omev
01:51:52 Rep. Regier
01:52:01 Ms. Omev
01:52:34 Rep. Boland
01:53:12 Ms. Omev
01:54:57 Rep. Boland
01:55:22 Ms. Omev
01:56:21 Rep. Wiseman
01:56:37 Sen. Barkus
01:56:53 Chairman Noonan
01:57:44 Ms. Omev

Closing by Sponsor:

01:57:59 Sen. Barkus

HEARING ON SB 481

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:58:42 Sen. Gregory Barkus (R), SD 4, opened the hearing on
SB 481, Exempt economic stimulus projects from MEPA.

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Proponents' Testimony:

02:00:38 Mike Newton, Fisher Sand and Gravel
02:03:39 Paul Thompson, Gilman Construction
02:08:31 Mr. Hegreberg
02:13:28 Rep. Dave Kasten
02:15:52 Mr. Don Allen
02:19:21 Mr. Keith Allen

Opponents' Testimony:

02:20:39 Evan Barrett, Chief Business Officer, Governor's Budget
Office
02:24:54 Richard Opper, Director, Department of Environmental
Quality
02:27:45 Kyla Wiens, MEIC
02:30:30 Talasi Brooks, self
02:31:47 Ms. Hastings

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:32:37 Rep. Reichner
02:33:40 Sen. Barkus
02:34:26 Chairman Noonan
02:35:20 Sen. Barkus
02:35:35 Chairman Noonan
02:36:06 Sen. Barkus
02:36:10 Chairman Noonan
02:36:47 Sen. Barkus
02:38:20 Chairman Noonan
02:38:47 Mr. Keith Allen
02:39:48 Chairman Noonan
02:40:14 Mr. Keith Allen

Closing by Sponsor:

02:40:43 Sen. Barkus

HEARING ON SB 403

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:42:13 Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R), SD 23, opened the hearing on
SB 403, Revise electricity laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:44:21 Mr. Fitzpatrick

[EXHIBIT\(feh56a06\)](#)

02:58:33 Commissioner Molnar

Opponents' Testimony:

03:04:28 Suzanne Bessette, Montana Small Independent Renewable
Generators (MSIRG)

[EXHIBIT\(feh56a07\)](#)

03:14:53 Bill Pascoe, United Materials of Great Falls

03:21:29 Mr. Cartwright

03:22:32 Dave Healow, Two Dot Wind

03:31:10 Mr. Magraw

03:34:44 Chairman Noonan

[EXHIBIT\(feh56a08\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:36:20 Rep. Reichner

03:36:39 Mr. Magraw

03:37:38 Rep. Reichner

03:37:59 Mr. Magraw

03:40:50 Rep. Stahl

03:41:25 Mr. Magraw

03:42:47 Rep. Klock

03:43:33 Commissioner Molnar

03:43:39 Rep. Klock

03:43:44 Commissioner Molnar

03:44:08 Rep. Klock

03:44:27 Mr. Fitzpatrick

03:45:48 Rep. Stahl

03:46:17 Commissioner Molnar

03:47:53 Chairman Noonan

Closing by Sponsor:

03:49:12 Sen. Gebhardt

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ADJOURNMENT

03:53:55 Adjournment: 6:54 P.M.

Bryce Bennett, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([feh56aad.pdf](#))